AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Replace the paragraph starting on page 3, line 21 with the following:

Conventional sorting cabinets for items of documents or mail comprise compartments for sorting the items in a certain order of distribution, e.g. street address or room number. The items are sorted into the compartments, and are then removed and gathered in bundles for distribution within, for example, a postal district or delivery route. U.S. Patent No. 6,341,700 to ~~The~~ Soderstrom discloses ~~device 10 aims at providing~~ a sorting device which facilities the bundling of the sorted items by providing means for emptying the sorting compartments in such a way as to automatically bundle the items in sorted order. Figure 1 shows, in a top plan view, an embodiment of ~~the Soderstrom~~ a sorting device 10 for sorting items 1 comprising a frame 2, in which partitions 3 are arranged in a spaced relationship, forming a number of compartments or sorting compartments 4. The partitions 3 are fixedly or removably arranged on the rear section or rear element 5 connected to the frame 2, the partitions extend substantially parallel with respect to each other. In the embodiment shown in Figure 1, the partitions are bent so that, in a horizontal plane, they will extend in an oblique direction with respect to the frame 2. Extending below the partitions 3, spaced apart from their lower edges, is a horizontal plate member which forms the bottom 6 of the sorting compartments 4. The bottom ~~member~~ 6 is withdrawable from the frame in the direction of arrow P, and displacable with respect to the partitions 3 in a direction P which deviates from the direction in which said partitions extend. The dot-dash line shows the bottom member in a withdrawn or displaced position. Slidable guide means, e.g. guide rails, not illustrated, are arranged in the frame to act as bearing means to allow for the displacement of the bottom ~~member~~ 6. Figure 6 illustrates the bottom ~~member~~ 6 partially withdrawn from the frame 2. In another embodiment (not shown), the partitions 3 are movably supported upon the frame 2 and are displaceable relative to a stationary bottom ~~6~~. In that embodiment, the partitions 3 are extended away from the stationary bottom ~~6~~ during the controlled felling operation.

Replace the paragraph starting on page 4, line 19 with the following:

Figure 2 shows, in a view similar to that of Figure 1, another embodiment of ~~the Soderstrom~~ a sorting device 10 for sorting items. ~~The~~ Sorting device 10 has straight partitions 13 extending mainly at right angles in relation to the frame 12, and which run parallel with respect to each other, thus forming a number of sorting compartments 14. The partitions 13 include a leading edge 15, which in this embodiment is a generally linear shape. Alternative leading edge 15 configurations would also be practicable. The partitions 13 are arranged in the frame 12 by suitable means as described above. The bottom 6 of the sorting compartments is arranged on slidable guiding means (not shown) extending obliquely with respect to the frame ~~10~~12, in order to be displaced in a direction P which deviates from the general direction in which the partitions 13 extend. The dot-dash line indicates the bottom 6 withdrawn from the frame.

Replace the paragraph starting on page 5, line 4 with the following:

When documents, letters or the like are to be sorted, these are placed in the respective compartment, in accordance with the order in which they are to be distributed, in such a way that the lower edge of each item rest on the displaceable bottom 6 of the compartment. Due to the fact that the bottom of the sorting device is displaceable in relation to the partitions, in a direction which deviates from the general direction in which said partitions extend, the items during the displacing movement of the bottom fall in a controlled manner in the same direction. After the controlled fall, the items may be pushed together into bundles in correct order in an easy manner. Several embodiments of ~~the Soderstrom~~ a sorting device are disclosed, which all share the common feature of mutual displacability of the bottom and the partitions in a direction which deviates from the general direction in which the partitions extend, through which displacing movement is achieved the controlled felling of the sorted items in a common direction.

Replace the paragraph starting on page 5, line 26 with the following:

In another envisioned use, a folder 30 may be used within each of the sorting compartments 14 and used to separate the items 32 from adjacent compartments 14. In this manner, the folders 30 may provide discrete mail packets associated with each of the address locations. Yet another benefit of the folder 30 used in conjunction with ~~the Soderstrom~~ a sorting device 10 is the facilitation of sorted document removal from between the partitions 13. Without use of the folder 30, and particularly with substantially full sorting compartments, some light documents may be suspended away from the ~~drawer~~ bottom 6 and be frictionally held by the partition 13 walls as the ~~drawer~~ bottom 6 is extended and be separated from the associated mail items. As an additional step, these separated items then need to be manually replaced within the sorted order of items. By placing a folder 30 in the compartment(s) 14 prior to the sorting process, items 32 can be inserted and held within the folder 30.

Replace the paragraph starting on page 7, line 9 with the following:

Referring now to FIG. 7, another aspect of the present invention is disclosed. In this embodiment, the folders 30 may be utilized as dividers within a mail sorting process and to create a delivery point package 50. The uppermost illustration of FIG. 7 represents a mail grouping which has been sorted, such as via a manual or automated process. Subgroupings of sorted items 32 are depicted as numeral 52. Items 32 within the subgroupings 52 are associated with a particular addressee or destination. ~~Folder dividers~~Folders 30 are provided within the subgroupings 52 of items 32, such that the ~~dividers~~ folders 30 are adjacent two different subgroupings 52. For example, the ~~dividers~~ folders 30 are disposed between two different addressees of sorted mail. The ~~dividers~~folders 30 may have been processed via an automated sorting process or have been otherwise placed between the subgroupings 52 of mail. In one embodiment of the present invention, the ~~dividers~~folders 30 are postage paid mailing items which are processed as regular mail items. In yet another embodiment, the ~~dividers~~folders 30 include address specific information 38 and are sorted with reference to the information, but not otherwise being a postage carrying item. In the uppermost illustration of FIG. 7, each of the ~~dividers~~ folders 30 is placed in a predetermined relationship relative to the balance of the mail subgrouping 52, i.e., the ~~dividers~~ folders 30 are disposed adjacent the right-most mail item 32 of the subgrouping. Alternatively, the ~~dividers~~ folders 30 may be disposed adjacent the left-most mail item 32 of the subgroupings 52.

Replace the paragraph starting on page 7, line 26 with the following:

As presented in the intermediate illustration of FIG. 7, the ~~dividers~~ folders 30 may be inverted to capture mail items 32 within the associated subgrouping 52. The inversion process may be a manual process by a mail sorter, or may be via an automated process. In a manual process, each subgrouping 52 of mail 32 is withdrawn from the sorting device 10 and the folder 30 is inverted around the subgrouping 52 to partially encompass the mail items 32.

Replace the paragraph starting on page 8, line 1 with the following:

As presented in lower illustration FIG. 7, the process of ~~divider~~ folder 30 inversion captures the associated mail 32 and produces a delivery point package 50. The delivery point package 50 provides an efficient and effective mail item capture device which facilitates the delivery process by potentially decreasing the mail sorting process and reducing the possibility of lost or separated mail items. In one embodiment, information 38 related to the associated mail may be printed on the surface of the inverted folder 30 to facilitate subsequent delivery of the delivery point package 52.

Replace the paragraph starting on page 8, line 15 with the following:

In the embodiment of FIGS. 8 - 11, the folders 30 may be utilized as dividers within a mail sorting process and to create a delivery point package 50. The mail sorting process may handle different categories of mail items differently, e.g., larger items may be sorted separately from smaller items, etc. FIG. 8 represents larger-sized mail items 60 such as magazines, etc., commonly referred to as "flats" and folders 30 which have been sorted, such as via an automated process. Subgroupings of sorted items 60 and folders 30 are depicted as numerals 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, and 78. Items 60 within the subgroupings 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, and 78 and the folders 30 themselves are associated with a particular addressee or destination. As illustrated, some of the folders 30 will not have any associated "flats" but are otherwise placed in a sorted order via the automated "flats" sorting process. In one embodiment of the present invention, the ~~dividers~~ folders 30 are postage paid mailing items which are processed via the

"flats" automated sorting process. In yet another embodiment, the ~~dividers~~ folders 30 include address specific information 38 and are sorted with reference to the information, but not otherwise being a postage carrying item.

Replace the paragraph starting on page 9, line 1 with the following:

As presented in the illustration of FIG. 9, the ~~dividers~~ folders 30 may be inverted to capture the "flats" mail items 60 within the associated subgrouping 52. The inversion process may be a manual process by a mail sorter.

Replace the paragraph starting on page 9, line 4 with the following:

As presented in illustration FIG. 10, the inverted ~~dividers~~ folders 30 may then be placed into a sorting device 10, such as the Soderstrom sorter, at which time additional "non-flats" and other mail items 80 may be inserted into the folder device 10. Upon inserting the additional items 80, including automatically sequenced letter mail (DPS) and "residual mail" (letters and flats which have not been run through automatic delivery point sequencing machines) the inverted ~~dividers~~ folders 30 holding all mail items 60, 80 can be withdrawn from the sorting device 10. Referring to FIG. 11, the process produces a delivery point package 50 for use as described above.